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**SUBJECT: Project OILSTONE**

**29 June 1955**

**REFERENCE: Memorandum for the Chief of Staff, from the Secretary of the Air Force, dated 27 June 1955**

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1. The referenced document contemplates that the operational phase of Project OILSTONE be carried out by a joint Task Force of the Central Intelligence Agency and the U.S. Air Force (hereinafter referred to as the Project Organization), that [redacted] be assigned to head the Air Force portion of the Task Force, and that he serve also as Deputy to the Senior Project Officer (designated by the Director of Central Intelligence) for all operational activities. The purpose of this memorandum is to outline specific organizational arrangements in accordance with this concept.

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2. The Project Organization will include CIA civilian employees and civilian contractors' employees as well as Air Force personnel. (It is now estimated that there will be, at peak strength, approximately [redacted] personnel.) Operational effectiveness requires that these several categories of employees be integrated into a single organization. On the other hand, in order to minimize both the dislocation of existing organizational structures and the size of the Project Organization, it should undertake to perform for itself no functions that can be efficiently performed by existing Air Force and CIA components. Present plans reflect this principle. Accordingly, the Project Organization will require considerable support from other components of CIA and the Air Force and channels for the provision of the required support are proposed in this outline.

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4. As presently planned, the Project Organization will consist of a Headquarters in Washington, a test and training base [redacted] and three Detachments in the field presumably located at USAF bases. The organization will include: on the operations side, operational planners, one or two air weather officers in each Detachment, aeromedical personnel, pilots (all civilian), and communications and electronics technicians; on the support side, a supply officer and a few supply records specialists in each Detachment, photographic technicians, field maintenance crews and security personnel. This summary is indicative of the functions to be performed by the Project Organization itself. [redacted] will be the Deputy Project Officer stationed at Headquarters. Each Field Detachment will have as its commander a Colonel (also assigned to the [redacted])

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5. The joint Project Organization will require support from the Air Force principally in three forms. First, it will require the use of a number of cargo aircraft to perform a multi-purpose air support task. No provision has been made in the T/O of the Project Organization either for crews or for the maintenance of these aircraft. It is estimated that, at full strength, three KC-97-G's, two C-97's, three C-54's and two C-124's will be required continuously. Additional lift by C-124's and possibly C-97's or C-54's will be required in connection with initial deployment overseas. These aircraft will be required both for operational staging from regular overseas bases to advanced, temporary, staging bases and for the transportation of specialized equipment and personnel between the ZI and the several overseas Detachments. Since the crews will almost certainly become fully witting of the nature of the operation they are supporting, they should be assigned to the project on a continuing basis with an absolute minimum of rotation. Second, the Project Organization will obviously require the use of base facilities abroad and of housing for personnel and no provision has been made in the T/O for the performance of housekeeping functions or such logistical functions as the handling of non-specialized supplies, the storage of spares in depots overseas, etc. Third, the Air Force will probably continue to provide support to the project in the form of Government-furnished equipment (including both aircraft components and ground handling and maintenance equipment) and, perhaps, Air Force procured fuel and non-specialized supplies, as may be subsequently agreed. In the case of certain of these items, the Air Force will presumably make the necessary logistical arrangements to deliver them to overseas bases.

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6. Although it has been assumed (in accordance with the principle stated in paragraph 2 above) that these functions would not be performed by the Project Organization itself, this preliminary decision could be reversed. The Organization could be made more nearly self-sufficient by enlarging its T/O to include air crews for support aircraft and housekeeping personnel. If the decision stands, however, planning for the provision of these three types of support by appropriate components of the Air Force should begin at once. Presumably, these tasks could be assigned to an operational command or to theater commanders overseas or handled in other ways. Whatever the assignment of responsibilities, consideration should be given to the assignment by the supporting organization of a liaison officer to the Project Headquarters in Washington to participate in operational planning and to serve as the channel for transmitting support requirements and working out detailed arrangements for the furnishing of support.

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7. By all means the most important contribution of the Air Force to this joint Project will be the participation of its personnel. It is recognized that the requirement for some [ ] officers of proven ability, many of them with special skills, is a burdensome one for the Air Force to meet. Up to the present time, requirements for personnel, which have been transmitted to the Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel, have been based upon a provisional T/O for the Project Organization. Upon [ ] assignment, 25X1A  
manning levels will be reviewed with him so as to develop a jointly agreed basis for staffing. The present procedure for reviewing requirements for Air Force personnel could remain in effect or, if desired, primary responsibility for meeting requirements could be assigned to an operational command with the understanding that requirements which could more appropriately be filled from other components will be levied on the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel. A decision on the procedure to be employed in this manner is urgently required so that staffing of the joint Project Organization can go forward with minimum inconvenience to the personnel involved.

8. The Project Organization will continue to employ certain already established channels with certain Air Force components to secure types of support not covered by paragraph 5. above, as follows:

a. The Organization will maintain direct contact with the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Materiel, and this will be the channel through which requirements for major and specialized materiel will be submitted. It will probably be desirable at a later date to establish procedures whereby Field Detachments can requisition non-specialized and locally available supplies through the overseas bases where they are stationed.

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b. The Organization will use existing channels with the Office of the Director of Intelligence, USAF, and with other intelligence components, for the assembly of intelligence on enemy means of detection and enemy defense and on reconnaissance objectives.

c. The Organization will look to General Flickinger, ARDC, for assistance on aeromedical matters and will work out with him appropriate arrangements for the procurement of personal equipment for primary mission air crews.

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d. Arrangements for basic training of civilian pilots recruited by the CIA for this Project will be made directly by [redacted] of CIA with the Air Training Command, USAF, in accordance with established procedures.

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RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.  
Special Assistant to the Director

RMB:djm (29 June 55)

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2 T. Gardner

3 Everett and/or Briggs

4 Gen. Putt

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7 - Project Reading

8 - Project Chrono

9 - Project Subject

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